# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:154
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000
OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PRABHUNATH SINGH

**Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:**

(a) Whether it is a fact that the absence of research and advanced technology, natural resources have remained untapped;

(b) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to formulate plan to ensure optimum utilization of natural resources for betterment of the country;

(c) Whether the Planning Commission is concentrating only on plan formulation of Annualand Five Year Plan and ignoring proper perspective and vision for the years to come and plan accordingly; and

(d) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to bring desired changes in the approach of Commission?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.154 FO ANSWER ON 29.11.2000 REGARDING OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

(a) No, Sir

(b) A large number of agencies e.g. Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines, Mineral Exploration Corporation of India, Oil & Natural Gas Commission, Indian Oil Corporation, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, Central Mining Research Institute, Indian School of Mines, Central Fuel Research Institute, National Rock Mechanic Institute, Indian Council of Agriculture Research etc. are actively engaged in locating, exploring and enabling optimum utilization of natural resources of the country. The latest research methods and technologies like remote sensing, geo-magnetism, satellite imaging, etc., are used to reveal natural resources. Keeping in view the resource endowment, plans are drawn to utilize these resources for down stream industries by different sectors and exports; where resource endowment is not large, imports are resorted to in order to ensure optimum life of domestic resources e.g. crude oil, copper etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Before every Five Year Plan, Working Groups are set up in different sectors to come upwith perspective plans for development and exploitation of natural resources. During the deliberations of the Working Groups and separately detailed consultations are held with representatives of different Government departments/ministries, State Governments, industry representatives - both public as well as private sector - experts in the field, academicians, economists, scientists, technologists, management experts, consultants, etc. Taking into account the views and opinions of all diverse interests, appropriate plans are drawn up for optimum utilization of natural resources. Towards this end, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is also being encouraged.